

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 6-9 and 15-20 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

one or more hosts configured to implement:

a production database; and

a refresh mechanism configured to:

generate a storage checkpoint of ~~[[a]]~~ the production database;

generate a database clone from the storage checkpoint;

load data to the database clone, wherein the production database is available for access by users during said load; and

switch the storage checkpoint to be ~~the~~ an entry point to the production database.

2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is further configured to perform post-processing on the database clone prior to said switch.

3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is further configured to:

stop the production database prior to said switch; and

start the production database after said switch.

4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

6. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is configured to perform said ~~load~~ loading of data to the database clone on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.

7. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is configured to perform said ~~load~~ loading of data to the database clone on a host machine hosting the production database.

8. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

means for generating a storage checkpoint of a production database;

means for generating a database clone of a production database from the storage checkpoint;

means for loading data to the database clone, wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

means for switching the storage checkpoint to be the an entry point to the production database.

9. (Currently amended) A method for refreshing a production database, comprising:

generating a storage checkpoint of the production database;

generating a database clone from the storage checkpoint;

loading data to the database clone, wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

switching the storage checkpoint to be ~~the~~ an entry point to the production database.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising performing post-processing on the database clone prior to said switching.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

stopping the production database prior to said switching; and

starting the production database after said switching.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading data to the database clone is performed on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.

15. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible storage medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are configured to implement:

generating a storage checkpoint of a production database;

generating a database clone from the storage checkpoint;

loading data to the database clone, wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

switching the storage checkpoint to be ~~the~~ an entry point to the production database.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement performing post-processing on the database clone prior to said switching.

17. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement:

stopping the production database prior to said switching; and

starting the production database after said switching.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said loading data to the database clone is performed on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.